

## **CLAIMS**

We claim:

1       1. A system for providing ongoing support for a general  
2       procurement and accounts payable application, comprising:

3 a server;

4 a storage device connected to said server;

5 a plurality of team terminals;

6 a communication link interconnecting said server and  
7 said terminals;

8           said server being operable for (1) maintaining a  
9           database of templates on said storage device  
10          describing procedures for supporting said application  
11          and (2) serving said templates to team members  
12          operating said terminals for coordinating, recording,  
13          and tracking team activities executing said procedures  
14          with respect to said application;

15                   said procedures including user education, survey and  
16                   quality auditing tasks.

1               2. The system of claim 1, each said template storing,  
2               either directly or by way of links to other documents, one  
3               or more instructions, flow charts, sample questionnaires,  
4               report models and checklists for guiding, coordinating and  
5               documenting the work of said enterprise teams.

1               3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2               said server being operable for maintaining a plurality  
3               of databases on said storage device customized to  
4               applications for a plurality of customers of an  
5               enterprise for serving to said team terminals.

1               4. A method for providing ongoing support for a general  
2               procurement and accounts payable application of a customer  
3               of an enterprise, comprising the steps of:

4               maintaining a database of templates describing

5           procedures for supporting an operational general  
6           procurement and accounts payable system; and

7           operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to  
8           access via a server said database for coordinating  
9           tasks by a plurality of enterprise teams implementing  
10          said procedures;

11          said procedures including user education, survey and  
12          quality auditing tasks.

1           5. The method of claim 4, each said template storing,  
2           either directly or by way of links to other documents, one  
3           or more instructions, flow charts, sample questionnaires,  
4           report models and checklists for guiding, coordinating and  
5           documenting the work of said enterprise teams.

1           6. A system for integrating assessment, preparation,  
2           development, deployment, and support stages for a general  
3           procurement and accounts payable application using  
4           electronic requisitions, comprising:

5           a server;

6           a storage device connected to said server;

7           a plurality of team terminals;

8           a communication link interconnecting said server and

9           said terminals;

10          said server being operable for (1) maintaining a

11          database on said storage device of templates

12          describing procedures for assessing, preparing,

13          developing, deploying and supporting said application

14          and (2) serving said templates to team members

15          operating said terminals for coordinating, recording

16          and tracking team activities with respect to said

17          application.

1           7. The system of claim 6, each said template storing,

2          either directly or by way of links to other documents, one

3          or more instructions, flow charts, questionnaires, report

4          models and checklists for guiding, coordinating and

5          documenting the work of said enterprise teams.



1       8. A method for integrating assessment, preparation,  
2       development, deployment, and support stages for a general  
3       procurement and accounts payable system using electronic  
4       requisitions, comprising the steps of:

5               maintaining a database of templates describing  
6               procedures for assessing, preparing, developing,  
7               deploying and supporting said general procurement and  
8               accounts payable system;

9               operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to  
10          access via a server said database for coordinating  
11          tasks by a plurality of teams implementing said  
12          procedures.

1       9. The method of claim 8, each said template storing,  
2       either directly or by way of links to other documents, one  
3       or more instructions, flow charts, questionnaires, report  
4       models and checklists for guiding, coordinating and  
5       documenting the work of said enterprise teams.

1       10. A system for evaluating a potential client system and  
2       for adapting a general procurement and accounts payable  
3       application to the requirements of each of many potential  
4       clients operable by third party providers and for  
5       monitoring and assuring the quality of services provided by  
6       said service providers, comprising:

7            a server;

8            a storage device connected to said server;

9            a plurality of terminals;

10          a communication link interconnecting said server and  
11          said terminals;

12          said server being operable for (1) maintaining on said  
13          storage device, for each of a plurality of customers,  
14          a database of templates describing procedures for  
15          assessing, preparing, developing, deploying and  
16          supporting each of said applications, and (2) serving  
17          said templates to members of enterprise teams and  
18          provider teams operating said terminals for  
19          coordinating, recording and tracking team activities

20                   with respect to said application during assessment,  
21                   preparation, development, deployment and support  
22                   stages.

1                 11. The system of claim 10, said terminals being web-  
2                   enabled terminals and said server being operable for  
3                   serving to said terminals a panel enabling task  
4                   creation by said enterprise team and task use by said  
5                   enterprise and provider teams.

1                 12. A system for integrating technical team and transition  
2                   management personnel during design and deployment of a  
3                   general procurement and accounts payable application,  
4                   comprising:

5                   a database server,

6                   a front end server,

7                   an accounting system server,

8                   a firewall,

9                   a plurality of team terminals,

10                   a database store,

11                   an accounting system store,

12                   a communication link interconnecting said server and

13                   said terminals;

14                   said server being operable for (1) maintaining a

15                   database on said storage device of templates

16                   describing procedures for a plurality of tasks

17                   relating to aspects of said application and (2)

18                   serving said templates to members of said technical

19                   team and transition management personnel operating

20                   said terminals for coordinating, recording and

21                   tracking team activities with respect to said tasks.

1                   13. The system of claim 12, said tasks including

2                   procedures for assessing, preparing, developing, deploying

3                   and supporting said application.

1       14. The system of claim 12, said tasks including  
2       procedures for activities related to a plurality of  
3       categories from the set of categories including assessment,  
4       business controls, configuration, education, image,  
5       information technology, marketing, process, project  
6       management, front end server, accounting system server,  
7       testing, and transition management.

1       15. A system for customizing a general procurement and  
2       accounts payable application for a customer, comprising:

3            a server;

4            a storage device connected to said server;

5            a plurality of terminals;

6            a communication link interconnecting said server and  
7        said terminals;

8            said server being operable for (1) maintaining a  
9        database on said storage device of master templates  
10       describing procedures for assessing, preparing,

11 developing, deploying and supporting each of said  
12 applications and (2) serving said master templates to  
13 members of enterprise teams operating said terminals  
14 for personalizing for each of a plurality of customers  
15 a unique database of templates.

1 16. The system of claim 15, said procedures including  
2 tasks for coordinating team activities with respect to  
3 said application during general procurement and accounts  
4 payable application assessment, preparation, development,  
5 deployment and support stages.

1 17. A system for providing continuing support to a  
2 customer's general procurement and accounts payable  
3 application by enterprise teams which design and deploy  
4 said application, comprising:

5 a database server;

6 a storage device connected to said server;

7 a plurality of team terminals;

8                   an accounting system for implementing said  
9                   application;

10                  a front end server connected to said accounting system  
11                  through a firewall;

12                  a communication link interconnecting said database  
13                  server, said front end server, and said terminals;

14                  said database server being operable for (1)  
15                  maintaining a database of templates on said storage  
16                  device describing procedures for supporting said  
17                  application and (2) serving said templates to  
18                  enterprise team members operating said terminals for  
19                  coordinating, recording, and tracking team activities  
20                  executing said procedures; and

21                  said interface server being operable for serving to  
22                  said enterprise team members information from said  
23                  accounting system implementing said application.

1                  18. A process using an on-line data gathering tool for  
2                  evaluating a customer's general procurement and accounts

3 payable system, comprising the steps of:

4 gathering data describing requirements of said  
5 customer for procurement and data describing currently  
6 used tools and processes for satisfying said  
7 requirements; and

8 gathering data from said customer which describes a  
9 cost for future years of continuing with said  
10 currently used tools and processes;

11 designing and deploying a new system including  
12 alternative tools and processes satisfying said  
13 requirements; and thereafter

14 auditing the operation of said new system using said  
15 on-line data gathering tool to provide performance  
16 data to said customer.

1 19. A system for training and assessing the quality of  
2 service provided by a general procurement and accounts  
3 payable service provider to a customer of an enterprise,  
4 comprising:

5                   a server;

6                   a storage device connected to said server;

7                   a plurality of team terminals;

8                   a communication link interconnecting said server and

9                   said terminals;

10                  said server being operable for (1) maintaining a

11                  database on said storage device of templates

12                  describing procedures for use by enterprise teams for

13                  training said service provider and assessing the

14                  quality of service provided with respect to the

15                  general procurement and accounts payable application

16                  of said customer and (2) serving said templates to

17                  enterprise team members operating said terminals for

18                  coordinating, recording and tracking team activities

19                  with respect to said application.

1                  20. A system for providing a repeatable process for

2                  training, managing, certifying and educating a service

3                  provider to operate a general procurement and accounts

4 payable application on behalf of a customer of an  
5 enterprise, comprising:

6 a first server;

7 a storage device connected to said server;

8 a plurality of team terminals;

9  
10 a second server interfacing through a firewall to an  
11 operational accounting system connected;

12 a communication link interconnecting said first and  
13 second servers and said terminals;

14 said second server being operable for serving  
15 operational accounting data to said team terminals;  
16 and

17 said first server being operable for (1) maintaining a  
18 database on said storage device of templates  
19 describing procedures for executing said application,  
20 and (2) serving said templates to team members  
21 operating said terminals for coordinating, recording

22 and tracking enterprise team activities with respect  
23 to said service provider.

1 21. A program storage device readable by a machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by  
3 a machine to perform method steps for providing ongoing  
4 support for a general procurement and accounts payable  
5 application, said method steps comprising:

6 maintaining a database of templates describing  
7 procedures for supporting an operational general  
8 procurement and accounts payable system; and

9 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to  
10 access via a server said database for coordinating  
11 tasks by a plurality of enterprise teams implementing  
12 said procedures;

13 said procedures including user education, survey and  
14 quality auditing tasks.

1 22. An article of manufacture comprising:

2 a computer useable medium having computer readable  
3 program code means embodied therein for providing  
4 ongoing support for a general procurement and accounts  
5 payable application, the computer readable program  
6 means in said article of manufacture comprising:

7 computer readable program code means for causing a  
8 computer to effect maintaining a database of templates  
9 describing procedures for supporting an operational  
10 general procurement and accounts payable system; and

11 computer readable program code means for causing a  
12 computer to effect operating a plurality of web-  
13 enabled user terminals to access via a server said  
14 database for coordinating tasks by a plurality of  
15 enterprise teams implementing said procedures;

16 said procedures including user education, survey and  
17 quality auditing tasks.

1 23. A computer program product or computer program element  
2 for providing ongoing support for a general procurement and  
3 accounts payable application according to the steps of:

maintaining a database of templates describing procedures for supporting an operational general procurement and accounts payable system; and operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to access via a server said database for coordinating tasks by a plurality of enterprise teams implementing said procedures;

24. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps for integrating assessment, preparation, development, deployment, and support stages for a general procurement and accounts payable system using electronic requisitions, said method steps comprising:

11 accounts payable system;  
12 operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to  
13 access via a server said database for coordinating  
14 tasks by a plurality of teams implementing said  
15 procedures.

1       25. An article of manufacture comprising:

2           a computer useable medium having computer readable  
3           program code means embodied therein for integrating  
4           assessment, preparation, development, deployment, and  
5           support stages for a general procurement and accounts  
6           payable system using electronic requisitions, the  
7           computer readable program means in said article of  
8           manufacture comprising:

9           computer readable program code means for causing a  
10          computer to effect maintaining a database of templates  
11          describing procedures for assessing, preparing,  
12          developing, deploying and supporting said general  
13          procurement and accounts payable system; and

14          computer readable program code means for causing a  
15          computer to effect operating a plurality of web-  
16          enabled user terminals to access via a server said  
17          database for coordinating tasks by a plurality of  
18          teams implementing said procedures.

1       26. A computer program product or computer program element  
2       for integrating assessment, preparation, development,  
3       deployment, and support stages for a general procurement  
4       and accounts payable system using electronic requisitions  
5       according to the steps of:

6               maintaining a database of templates describing  
7       procedures for assessing, preparing, developing,  
8       deploying and supporting said general procurement and  
9       accounts payable system;

10          operating a plurality of web-enabled user terminals to  
11       access via a server said database for coordinating  
12       tasks by a plurality of teams implementing said  
13       procedures.